The increase or decrease in the consumption of liquor can be seen from the figures furnished in reply to question No. 61 of the legislative session.

The number of liquor shops in the State.

114. Mr. K. T. Mathew.— Will the Government be pleased to inform the number of (a) toddy, (b) arrack and (c) foreign liquor shops in the State in 1101 and the number of such shops for which licenses will be given for the year 1102?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—

	Toddy.	Arrack.	Foreign liquor.
1101	452	251	44
1102	441	241	The number cannot be specified now. It will not be more than this year's.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will it be less, if you are working at Prohibition? There is no use of giving a guarantee that it will not be more.

President.—The number is less. Then, about foreign liquor shops, how is the number ascertained?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—When applications are received.

President.—Therefore, applications are received?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I receive applications by the end of this month, and they are for the ensuing year.

President.—How many were received till now?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I do not remember exactly Perhaps, there may be two or three.

President.—It will not be more than that for this year. Is there any reason to think that it would be less?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I cannot say.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—What is the objection in reducing the number of shops? We are working up to Prohibition.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—We do not find any reason for reducing these shops. Liquor is not consumed in all these shops. Foreign liquor shops consist of wholesale shops, retail shops, taverns, shops for rectified spirits, shops for medicated wines, etc. All these together come to only 44. So far as taverns are concerned, there are only four. They have been auctioned for next year, and their number will be the same as that of last year.

President.—The question asked is whether, keeping this policy steadily in view, the shops could be gradually reduced so

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

as to work up to Prohibition, and whether, year after year, we cannot reduce the shops by 2, 3 or 4 or something like that.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—With regard to toddy and arrack shops, I have reduced 21 shops for next year.

President.—We have done it. With regard to foreign liquor shops, could that be done?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—It is only in taverns that liquor is sold for consumption on the premises, and there are only 3 or 4 of these. The same number will be continued for next year also, because the same have been auctioned. In the retail shops foreign liquor is sold in sealed bottles for consumption off the premises, and the consumption of liquor on the premises is prohibited.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Outside the premises it is permitted.

President.—Whether we reduce the number of shops or whether we increase, it will not tell much upon the consumption.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—There will not be much use of reducing the liquor shops except taverns.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Are people permitted to import foreign liquor from British India without the knowledge of the Superintendent?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—They can import for private consumption.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Should not the shop keepers get the permission of the Superintendent for importing liquor for sale?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar—Yes, they can sell only in sealed bottles.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—On a point of information, Sir—

President.—You are not in order, Mr. Raman. Information is asked by questions which no Member can do, when another is in possession of the House. So please sit down.

The distance between liquor shops.

115. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is any rule, and if so, what is the rule, prescribing the shortest distance between (a) two liquor shops, (b) two arrack shops and (c) two toddy shops?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.— There is no general rule,

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly